



6-1981

164th Infantry News: June 1981

164th Infantry Association

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The 164th INFANTRY News

Vol. 11 Number 2

1981 is our 36 Ass'n Yr.

June, 1981



Dear Friends of the 164th Infantry Association:

WHY NOT MINOT!! The committee is working to make plans for 1981 convention on October 16-17-18. Registration will begin at noon on Friday at the Legion Club and activities will continue there for the rest of the day. There will be a memorial service on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at the Legion followed by the annual business meeting. The men will have their noon luncheon at the Legion Club and the ladies will have their noon luncheon at the new Holiday Inn. The evening banquet and dance will be held at Riverside Lodge. The convention will conclude with a Sunday brunch at the VFW club.

In the letter to you, there was a list of motels. Please contact a motel early and get confirmation of your room as there are other activities in the city that weekend. Be sure to notify the motel that you are with the 164th Infantry Association.

We look forward to seeing many of you there at the convention as it is always an opportunity to renew acquaintances and meet new friends. Minot is always considered to be a good convention city. **WHY NOT MINOT in 1981!!**

Dr. George M. Christensen
Chairman

June 25, 1981

Dear Members of the 164th Infantry Association,

WHY NOT MINOT!! Plans are being completed for the annual meeting on October 16-17-18, 1981. Registration will begin about noon on Friday, October 16, at the American Legion Club. There is nothing formal planned for Friday evening but we hope all of you will congregate there as there will be a good band for dancing and excellent food, so it will be an ideal place to meet your old friends. On Saturday morning there will be a memorial service at the Legion Club followed by a business meeting. The men will have a noon luncheon at the Legion and the ladies will have their luncheon in a Hawaiian setting at the new Holiday Inn. The after-

(Con't on page 2)

Minot Motel Accommodations

RAMADA INN — 1505 N. Broadway
(Highway 83), Tel. 852-3161.

Single \$29.
Double \$35.
2-Bed \$38.

HOLIDAY INN — 3215 No. Broadway
(Highway 83), Tel. 852-4161.

Single \$32.
2-Bed \$38.
King Size \$37.

ECON-O-INN — 22 Ave. and Highway
83 N., Tel. 852-3411.

Single \$24.44
2-Bed \$29.64

DAKOTA INN — 2-52 Highway
Bypass S., Tel. 838-2700.

Single \$18.95
Double \$23.95
3 Occup'ts \$26.95

SUPER-8 — 1315 N. Broadway (High-
way 83), Tel. 852-1817.

Single \$20.88
Double \$23.88

THUNDERBIRD — 1900 Burdick
Expressway E, Tel. 852-4488.

Single \$22.
Double \$26.
4 Occup'ts \$34.

SANDMAN — Highway 2-52 W., Tel.
852-4088.

Double only \$25.

HO-HUM — Highway 2-52 W., Tel.
852-2191.

Single \$22.
Double \$27.95.
Deposit Required \$20.

When making reservations refer to
164th Infantry.

Letters . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

for the convention with all meals noon will be left open for visiting and perhaps a little nap. The evening banquet and dance will be held at the Riverside Supper Club with dancing to Pete Goetz and his orchestra who played for us 9 years ago. The convention will conclude with a good brunch at the VFW Club.

For those of you who may be traveling some distance, we are happy to tell you that Minot is served by Amtrak as well as Frontier and Republic Airlines so transportation is no problem. If you plan to arrive by bus, train, or plane, let us know of your expected time of arrival and we will try to meet you.

You will find with this letter, a list of the motels that have agreed to reserve rooms. Please make your own reservations at the motel of your choice if possible as soon as possible as there is a large agricultural exhibition the same weekend and that together with the oil activity will provide plenty of competition for rooms. We recommend that you send a deposit and get your reservation in to the motel before October 1 as they may not hold the rooms beyond that date without a reservation. When writing to a motel, be sure to mention that you are with the 164th.

If you happen to talk to anyone who is not a member but is eligible, advise them of the great time we are going to have in Minot in October. Registration included is only \$45 per couple or \$25 for singles which may be sent to the address indicated on the advance registration form below. Due to technicalities there will be no raffle tickets mailed out this year.

1981 Minot Reunion
Committee

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

You're needed — Time is short — Your plans and early registration will help us and above all we'd all like to see you again.

Name _____

Couples: \$45.00
Single: \$25.00

Address _____

Mail to:

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Reunion Committee
Attn: Douglas McMahan
P.O. Box 1544
Minot, ND 58701

Please make check, money order or draft payable to: 164th Infantry Association

Official Custodian
and Researcher

American Legion Post 45
287-I Sikatona St.
City of Cebu, Phillipines

P.S.

Enclosed is the official xerox copy of the proclamation of the Americal Cebu Friendship Week, in every week of March that ends in every March 26, Anniversary Day. Liberation of Cebu. Signed by the late National Commander, Dan Merlin.

Note:

According to the official record as reported, see page # in the "Saga of Southern Cross", the 164th Combat Infantry Regiment Americal Division had killed 567 Japanese Imperial Forces for the 60 day campaign starting April 11, 1945 to June 30, 1945, had destroyed and captured 65 Japanese per boxes, captured TAUP HILLS GUADALUPE GO CHAN HILLS ASTORIAS AND GUMBAN FALLS.

SAME.

Editors Note:

JUSTO C. DE LOS SANTOS, is service officer, chapter member, Historian Researcher, Post Commander and Post Adjutant Official Custodian World War II Liberation of CEBU. In addition, Mr. De Los Santos was appointed official spokesman Americal Division Liberation of CEBU Activities by Lt. General William H. Arnold commanding General Liberating Poses and supporting units and Honorary National Commanding ADVA, co-organizer of CEBU Fil Americal Friendship Day every 26 March, certificate of appreciation awardee of ADVA, Boston, Mass. by National Commander Dan Merlin for spearheading in erecting a marker for the Talisay Beach Head and for 28 years service of FIL AMERICANISM. He is a graduate American Legion Extension Phila, USA Class 20 in 1966, APM Americal Division Vet asso Boston, Mass, Yr. '72. And we think we are involved!

The 164th Infantry News

OFFICE: 610 Ave B West
Bismarck, ND 58501

Official Publication, 164th Infantry
Association of the United States
Published Quarterly

KEITH P. PARSONS
Editor

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to 164th Inf.
Assn.



Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502

THE UNITED STATES
NEEDS
A MODERN TAX SYSTEM
WHICH
WILL ENCOURAGE WORKING
AND
DISCOURAGE LOAFING!
THIS.....
CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED
BY HIRING "EXPERTS" WHO
WANT TO WORK!



Letters . . .

Dear Editor,

In your last edition, you encouraged members to send in stories.

I submit the enclosed story. It is not the usual blood and guts, but did actually happen.

I joined the 164th Inf. at Camp Claiborne, a Minnesota draftee, and stayed with it thru the Phillipines campaign as a member of the Medical Detachment of the 164th.

Sincerely yours,
Edward Mulligan
1032 Rossmau Ave.
Detroit Lakes, MN

Somewheres in the spring of 1945, the third battalion of the 164th Inf. held a beachhead perimeter around a small village on the northwest coast of Leyte Island while the 1st and 2nd battalions drove the Japanese overland towards us.

Early one morning supplies and mail arrived by landing craft boats. Among my letters was one from the girlfriend. As she was very anxious about my safety and well-being, she included a bouquet of prayers for my safety. It was timely because even as I read the letter Japanese bullets were popping in the tree tops directly over our aid station, which was forty yards behind L Co.'s perimeter defense line.

About an hour later an L Co. platoon officer hollered for us to pick up a wounded man. I asked three of our

younger and newer replacements to help with an "easy" one.

When we reached the officer I asked "Which man is hurt?" His answer was "He isn't here as he was on patrol." And pointing to a very lonely soldier two hundred yards in front of the lines in an open area, "That's him!" Our "easy" one was an impossible situation.

The officer continued before I had a chance to say verbally what I was thinking. He said "Before making your decision on this rescue, let me explain the situation." While the officer was explaining how close and where the Japanese positions were, I remembered the bouquet of prayers for my safety. Now, the only question was, "Is my faith in the prayers of my friends and relatives strong enough to risk my life and the lives of the three other medics out there on that open field?"

With a simple "We will try" we headed out across the forward slope, by the waterbuffalo wallow, and over to the wounded L Co. soldier. As a stocky litter squad man noticed the leg wound, he offered a shoulder carry so that the other three could spread out for a lesser target. At a given signal four L Co. machine guns opened fire on the Japanese positions. We hurriedly picked our way back between the firing lanes of those four guns guided only by the sharp crack of the bullets as they went by. Nobody said thank you — that was our job. However one soldier commented to his friend, "I hope that kid realizes how lucky he is that those f_____medics got more guts than brains.

I never checked if that L Co. man was an "old timer" from North Dakota or a newcomer from somewheres, U.S.A., nor did I ever mention how that rescue hung so delicately in balance because a girl in Minnesota sent a prayer to a guy in the Phillipines exactly when it was needed.

I tell this story now, not to brag I hope, but to show the present need for faith in the prayers of friends and relatives. Three years ago as cancer was taking my wife, the doctors said two weeks. I reminded her how difficult it was for me to place my life on her prayer offerings that day in the Phillipines. Now it was her turn to place her faith in the prayers of her family and friends as best she could because soon she would be starting across her field to the Kingdom of God.

Within another fifteen years or so nearly everyone that reads this paper will be faced with a like problem for a loved spouse or for themselves. I hope

this story will be a help to those of you who know ahead of time that their time is near at hand.

When the Lord says, "Come to me!", may I add, "May the prayers of your relatives and friends smooth and hasten your joyfull flight to the Kingdom of God."

Sincerely,
Edward Mulligan
3rd Bn. Med. Det.

21 May 1981

Keith P. Parsons
Editor
164th Infantry News
P.O. Box 1111
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
Dear Keith:

I think that I wrote to you thanking you for the location of the various units of the 164th but I find no indication that I have. Therefore, I want you to know how much I appreciate your efforts on my behalf. Three lists! Somewhere along the line I am going to have to make a compromise. Will face that when the time comes.

I am pleased to note that, finally, there has been an authorization to write a history of the 164. It will greatly aid me in my own efforts to tell the story of operations in the Northern Solomons 1941-1946.

Seeing a picture of Major Gosset recently reminded me of how he tried (successfully) to keep up my morale while we were both in the General Hospital on Fiji [I was doing my best to die of jaundice and my wife was thought to be terminally ill back in the US of A]. It was a "trying time" and I owe a great deal to the Major for his daily walks down the ward to talk to me. So long ago but so very firmly implanted in my memories as if it were yesterday.

Thank you, again, for the 164th's "home base" lists.

W. Mark Durley, Jr.
1485 North Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93454

May 13, 1981

Dear Secretary:

I received a copy of your paper from an old army buddy, Lloyd Sweeney, so now have the necessary form and data to request membership in the 164th Infantry Association. Enclosed please find my check for dues, newspaper and whatever.

Sincerely,
Harold P. Aarhus
2748 Kay Ave.
Concord, CA 94520

Letters . . .

Dear Editor:

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$5.00 for dues for 1981. Having lived in California for the past 24 years, I was not aware of the 164th membership and dues. Clarence Blecha sent me a copy of the newsletter last year. It is very interesting and informative.

I plan to retire from teaching in June 1982 and perhaps will be able to attend the reunion that year. Hope you have another good reunion this year.

Sincerely,
Alan Brown
833 W. Kanai Ave.
Porterville, CA 93257

April 24, 1981

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is my check for \$50.00 to cover the cost of a life membership plus a few bucks for the News.

I read with sadness of the death of Erv Sande who was my company commander at Ft. Rucker, Ala. in 1952. I am a former member of "G" (Guts) Company and I guess I was too much for Bernie Wagner to handle, so Bernie copped out and Capt. Sande and Capt. Wagner swapped commands. Needless to say what those two **soldiers** taught us was top drawer, as those of us who stayed with the military did O.K. Officers like Erv, Bernie, "Ratass" Torgerson, Pete Grant, and "COD" Ordahl made a great impression on us and were a lasting influence on our careers.

Sincerely,
Col. R.V. (Dick) Krogh
ASA RGT.

Dear Editor (Keith):

I received your very nice letter this morning. I'm glad to hear that your readers are receptive to some of the ideas (cartoons) I have forwarded to your office for publication. I want you to know that I have appreciated the privilege the Association has given me in print by publishing them.

I understand these have, sometimes, been controversial, but I do read or let others read them before I send them to the 164th News. Let's call them thought-provoking cartoons.

I spend some of my time writing to newspapers in this area (letters to the editors) about controversial subjects. Even when they're not printed, I feel I have shared something which sometimes bothers, and even alarms me. An example was the give-away of the Panama Canal.

In this case I took an excursion deep into the realm of hard politics with my cartoon character.

The occasion called for drawing 100 individual cartoons for no less than 100 Senators which contained the message, "The Panama Canal Decision is easy — do we fight to keep it or fight to get it back?"

This brought a multitude of varying opinions from numerous Senators with their opinions on the matter and some commentaries on the cartoon itself. Some placed me on their mailing lists to receive their newsletters, usually sent to their own constituents. Am still receiving some of them.

So much for that except I've learned much from expressive opinions to those who are in a position to act on them, should they happen to concur or otherwise.

About the story I have to share. Would ask — When would you need it and how long would it need be?

I do have a biography (condensed) on

a small brochure, perhaps that would suffice? It is a generalized biography.

Not much about military although some mention is made of it, like organizations, awards, etc. plus a few other things.

If you want a lengthy resume' I would be happy to supply that too.

Some unique things and persons did inspire my interest in the military. However, and was probably the only kid in North Dakota who had a special opportunity to be indoctrinated by soldiers from the time my parents would permit me to wander into the soldiers home grounds to listen to their tales. I used to live next door to the entrance to the North Dakota Soldier Home grounds.

I used to explain that the further out from the main part of town — the tougher the kids were and, I lived in the last house!

I do have a special feeling for all military personnel, past and present and try as best I can to keep up with some of their activities.

Although the pay for privates was skimpy years ago, I, presently, find it distasteful that a soldier is compelled to rely on food stamps, in some cases, for the military family to survive.

If there aren't enough volunteers and drafting is a no-no, I can't see how this nation can survive in a world where those we have helped in troubled times now burn our flag and numerous other outlandish activities perpetrated against us.

As usual, I got off on a writing rampage.

Let me know what you want and when and I'll try to do my part.

Walter R. Abbott
P.O. Box 446
Oberlin, La. 70655

4/30/81

Mr. Keith P. Parsons, Editor
164th Inf. News
Box 1111
Bismarck, ND 58502
Dear Keith:

Just read the March issue of "164th Infantry News" and enjoyed it very much.

A letter written by Earl H. Johnson indicates the purchase of some 164th patches. Please send me one of these. Enclosed is my check for \$5.00 to cover. Keep any extra for the paper.

Thanks,
L.G. Wichmann
2813 Nash Road
Minneapolis, Minn. 55430

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP and/or ANNUAL RENEWAL
164th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES**

Name _____

Unit Served With and Dates _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code No. _____

**DUES FOR 1981 — \$5.00, includes subscription to 164th News,
Send to: Secretary 164th Infantry, Box 1111, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502**

Letters . . .



June 9, 1981

Mr. Keith P. Parsons, Editor
The 164th Infantry News
Box 1111
Bismarck, N.D. 58502
Dear Keith:

I have enclosed a picture and its negative of the Regimental Color Guard taken during a parade on the landing strip on Bougainville Island, Solomons, on or about July 4th, 1944. As I recall, the Americal Division was passing in review for our Corps Commander. His name I do not remember. I thought perhaps you and/or the historian would be interested in it.

And, since I am terrible at remembering names, I am unable to identify the two guards and the Regimental Color Bearer. I was carrying the National Colors, and I can remember it was windy. The wind came off the ocean at about a hundred per and wrapped the Colors around our heads at one point during the parade. I'm sure glad we were "in step" and Colors proper while at "Eye's Right!"

I went overseas with the Regiment and was sent home in Aug. of 1945, and I believe that this parade was the only one we had while in combat. Correct me if I'm wrong please. I would also very much like to know the names and whereabouts of the other three men in the picture. If you use this in the paper, I hope someone will write and let me know.

You may keep the picture Keith, but I would appreciate having the negative returned to me. Thanks.

Hope to see you all at Minot in Oct.

P.S. Hope you can read my writing Keith, my typing would be much worse.

Best Regards,
Les Wichmann, Co. B
2813 Nash Road
Minneapolis, Mn. 55430

Editors Note: Can any of you fellows identify the Div. Color Bearer and two guards? If so please let us know at Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58501.

Rte. C-32, Box 34C
Sol Y Lomas Lane
Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
May 26, 1981

Mr. Keith Parsons, Editor
P.O. Box 1111
The 164th Infantry News
Bismarck, N. Dak. 58502

Dear Keith:

Congratulations on the excellent news publications you are compiling to keep us informed about the organization.

I was sorry to see that Ervin Sande had been lost to our Association. He always contributed a great amount of his time and effort for the good of the organization.

Erwin Ventsch, our current Association President, and I had several pleasant visits when he was in this territory during the Christmas Holidays. I see he and the Minot Association members are making plans for our reunion in October. The late Fall reunions are awfully hard on those of us who have a problem with the cold weather and detest driving on icy roads. Besides, wouldn't it be nice to have some decent weather during the reunion time. Also, the out-of-staters could spend more of their tourist dollars in the beautiful State of North Dakota.

Joe Juen, please submit your resolution again for a Summer or early Fall reunion date!

In the afternoon of May 15th, I received a call to meet a squad of Company "A" 164th troops in the downtown area of the City Different. After a few sentences of conversation, I recognized the voice of Gil Shirley of Bismarck. He stated that he had a squad of Guadalcanal Veterans and needed an additional member to reconnoiter "La Villa Real de la Santa Fe de San Francisco" — The Royal City of the Holy Faith of Saint Francis.

I joined Gil at a designated ice cream parlor and found that he had brought along Mel Shirley from California and Glenn Wick from Albuquerque and their wives. We had several hours to

reminisce about army life and discuss our present occupations — retirement. Their ladies were out shopping for the bargains. During the "tourista" season, bargains are difficult to find.

We parted reluctantly. We also stated that we would meet again at the reunion in Minot in October.

It was wonderful to visit with friends from the 164th. If any of you 164th members find your way into the Santa Fe area in your travels, please give us a call at 983-2798. We would appreciate a visit with you.

Keith, keep up the good work of informing us what is happening with the members of the organization. I, for one, appreciate the effort you put into preparing the paper for publication.

Sincerely,
Dennis R. Ferk

164th Infantry Regiment Co. H
W.W. II attached to Americal Div.
out of North Dakota

Please send any information you may have on reunions. We attended one in 1946 (N.D.) and did not know about later affairs.

Henry B. Smith
(3609233 04 421 1070 C)
18004 Maplecliff Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44119

Leeds, N.D. 58346
June 14, 1981

Editor Keith:

Please send me some 164th membership blanks as I will try and get the nonmembers of Co. "D" to sign up at our reunion the 26, 27 & 28th.

I now have some 81 known addresses of the Co. "D" and we have some 60 who have paid their registration, will get a list to you as soon as I can after the reunion. Thank you for putting in the notice of our gathering in your March issue. Also read Max Conyers letter. I will pass my copies of our 164th news around and let them read the 40years ago N.D. 164th started March toward Victory. At least the out of state men will know more about the Unit.

I called our cartoonist Walter Abbott last year when I was in Louisiana. He had just got back from the Lisbon reunion. Part of my family now live in that state. 2 girls in Thibodaux and 1 girl in Lafayette. They all married men from that state.

See you in October.

Charles E. Schlieve

Letters . . .

Valley City, N. Dak.

Hi Keith:

I have a couple correspondents to send unto you, as I told the people when I answered their cards and letters, I would do.

I was really shocked when I heard and read about Ervin Sande passing away. Whenever we met the conversation always turned to the last people of 164th Infantry, who still belonged to the North Dakota National Guard, it was one of his ambitions. He would always say to me and I quote: "Vic if you would get out of the Johnson boys (Jim & Bill), from "H" Co., I'll have it made." I know Ervin left the Guard two years ago, but there is a saying "the Good Lord picks the best flowers."

Keith, don't want to keep you any longer, but would like to compliment you & "Wally" Johnson on the great job you are doing for the rest of us "dead-beats."

P.S. I have informed the people I heard and referred them to Box 1111.

Sincerely,
Victor (Vic) Amundson
Valley City, N.D. 58072

June 25, 1981

Dear Sirs:

Waldemar Johnson
Keith Parsons

I attended the first reunion of the 164th Infantry in 1946. This was company H. It was held in Jamestown, N.D.

I wrote to a Mr. Amundson regarding any future reunions and he referred me to you two gentlemen for more information.

He also suggested sending a check for \$5.00 to cover the newspaper and bulletins issued during the year.

The tentative date for the reunion this year was Oct. 9, 10, 11 of 1981. Would you please confirm these dates and the location (Minot, N.D.).

Please send any past bulletins that might bring me up to date, and any information you might have regarding reservations for the three days.

I am enclosing the check for \$5.00 and I am also sending a copy of this letter to Ozzie Russ, another member of the 164th Company H.

(704 S.W. 4th Court)
(Hallandale, Florida 33009)

Sincerely,
Henry B. Smith
164th Infantry, Company H
18004 Maplecliff Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44119
1-216-531-6170

May 5, 1981

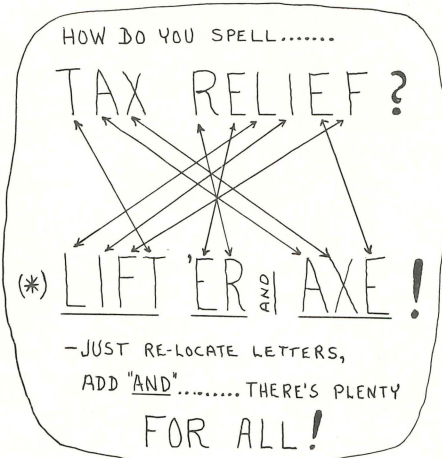
Mr. Clarence Risser
V.F.W. Club, Box 535
Valley City, N.D. 58072

While perusing the V.F.W. magazine I noted the reunion of the 164th Infantry Regiment. I am inquiring if this same regiment served with the 1st Mar. Div. Reinf. on Guadalcanal. If so those people are qualified to belong to the 1st Mar. Div. Assoc. We are having the first joint reunion of the association in K.C., Mo. August 13-16 and would like to see

some one from that outfit at our reunion. I anxiously await your reply.

P.S. Please contact me for more information if I am correct in my assumption. I will assure that any and all will receive all the information available by return mail.

Comrade in Arms
PHM2C Robert L. Pilgrinell, S.N.
6110A NW9 Hiway
Parkville, Mo. 64152
Chairman
Trailer and Camper Parking
V.F.W. Post 4043
Liberty, Missouri



(* LIFT = TO DISAPPEAR, VANISH, TAKE-OFF!

NOTICE PLEASE
This is your paper and it needs your support. It needs your stories, letters, and pictures to make it as good and readable as you desire. When sending in stories or photos of news interest, please identify all photos. Black and white glossy prints seem to reproduce best. Color prints may be used to a lesser degree of clarity if they are sharp photos. Photos used will be returned to sender when requested.
Thank you respectfully,
KEITH P. PARSONS
Editor

The Last Roll Call
It has been reported that the following named members of the 164th Infantry have answered the LAST ROLL CALL since our last issue:
Boyd Nelson March 1981 Williston, ND

The 164th Infantry News
Box 1111
BISMARCK, N.D. 58502

ALVIN TOLLEFSRUD

MAYVILLE, NDAK 58257